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# Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilot
## *Baltimore County, MD*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)                    Quick Reference Fact Sheet

**EPA's** Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to $200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

## OVERVIEW

EPA Region 3 has selected Baltimore County as a Regional Brownfields Pilot. For decades, the economic base of Baltimore County consisted of many large, heavy manufacturing operations that occupied much of the county's east side. Closures and downsizing by manufacturing employers since 1960 have resulted in a significant reduction in manufacturing jobs. Vacant and under-used industrial properties in the area are suspected of environmental contamination.

State and local authority has been enacted to protect rural areas of the County and the Chesapeake Bay. The County is faced with attracting new industrial and commercial development while improving the quality of life for residents and continuing to protect the Chesapeake Bay watershed area. Concerns about known and suspected contamination often impede the use of otherwise valuable sites. The County has redirected staff and resources to improve its older communities and has recently developed a comprehensive community and economic revitalization strategy of which brownfields is a part. The southeast industrial corridor has been designated a state Enterprise Zone.

### PILOT SNAPSHOT

**Date of Award:**
April 1997

**Amount:** $200,000

**Site Profile:** The pilot will focus on vacant and under-used properties in the County's southeast industrial corridor.

*Baltimore County, Maryland*

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Visit the EPA Brownfields Website at:
**http://www.epa.gov/brownfields**

## OBJECTIVES

Baltimore County's goals for the pilot are to assess brownfields properties, evaluate potential land uses for the properties, and then match the properties with potential purchasers who would be encouraged to enroll in Maryland's new voluntary cleanup program. The new Maryland program can provide eligible parties with releases from State liability if they complete certified cleanups of brownfields properties which are then redeveloped. This pilot will coordinate the Federal and State programs to better benefit the County's communities.

## ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this pilot include:

• Identifying sections of the County that are at a higher than average risk for brownfields concerns using a geographic information system (GIS) analysis;

• Developing an Industrial Redevelopment Opportunity Site Inventory that would identify brownfields properties with significant economic potential;

• Conducting seminars, meetings, and other outreach activities to educate businesses and other stakeholders about brownfields policies; and

• Facilitating the assessment and remediation planning of brownfields properties through their participation in Maryland's new voluntary cleanup program.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.